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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,811	09/29/2003	Frederick O. Miesterfeld	705530US2	2217

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINCENT Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2858

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,811

Applicant(s)

MIESTERFELD, FREDERICK O.

Examiner

Vincent Q Nguyen

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bloodworth (4,455,646).

Regarding claim 4, Bloodworth discloses a method comprising (Figure 1) the step of transmitting (From control module 91) (See also column 6, lines 59-64 and figure 5 and its combination disclosed through out the entire of the disclosure) a unique address from the local node, through the connection (44), to at least one of the remote nodes (Any node after element 44 is remote node, this is including T101, T102, T116, T340); changing the impedance of the at least one of the remote nodes in response to said unique address being received at the at least one of the remote nodes; sensing the impedance change of the at least one of the remote nodes (Column 7, lines 55-60) and determining therefrom that the connection is closed (On hook).

Regarding claim 5, Bloodworth disclose the step of sensing an open impedance (Off hook) (Column 8, lines 45-68; column 11, lines 27-45) of the at least one of the remote nodes and determining therefrom that the connection is open.

Regarding claim 6, Bloodworth discloses said unique address is comprised of n-bits (Column 6, lines 66-68; column 20, lines 65-68).

Regarding claim 7, Bloodworth discloses step of transmitting said unique address occurs when the connection is free from other communication (Entire column 7, column 8, lines 14-68).

Regarding claims 8, 9, Bloodworth discloses step of determining the connection is closed or is opened further comprises a comparison between a voltage of the local node and a reference voltage (Column 7, lines 55-68).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wissell (4,859,952) or over Laor (6,002,331) in view of Hunting et al. (5,097,213).

Regarding claim 4, Wissell discloses a method comprising (Figure 1) the step of transmitting a signal from the local node (11), through the connection (The connection connects the signal to detector 12), to at least one of the remote nodes (13); changing the impedance of the at least one of the remote nodes (See figure 6) in response to said signal being received at the at least one of the remote nodes; sensing the impedance change of the at least one of the remote nodes (Through R_{63} , figure 6) and determining therefrom that the connection is closed (Column 2, lines 5-10).

Laor discloses a method comprising the step of (Figure 3A) transmitting a signal from the local node (142), through the connection (The connection connects the signal to electrical wiring), to at least one of the remote nodes (140); changing the impedance of the at least one of the remote nodes (See figure 2) in response to said signal being received at the at least one of the remote nodes (140); sensing the impedance change of the at least one of the remote nodes (140) and determining therefrom that the connection is closed.

Wissell and Laor do not disclose the step of transmitting a unique address.

Hunting et al. discloses a method similar to that of Wissell and Laor and further discloses a step of transmitting a unique address from a local node (at processor 20) to remote node (Nodes after matrix 14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the step transmitting a unique address as taught by Hunting et al. into the method of Wissell or Laor because the connectors are varied in term of numbers and sizes, transmitting a unique address to test the connector would be desirable to improve the time requires to the connector (Hunting et al.'s column 1, lines 36-44).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent no. 5,552,699 discloses method for testing wires between switch and remote positions which transmitting signal at a local node (02) to remote node (13, 14).

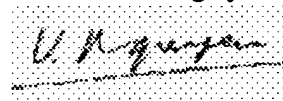
Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent Q Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2234. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, N. Le can be reached on (571) 272-2233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Vincent Q. Nguyen

A handwritten signature of Vincent Q. Nguyen in black ink, written over a dotted rectangular background.

February 5, 2004